

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE IRISH SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN.

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In Ireland;

Although this document does not set out to make a detailed examination of the situation in Ireland, it is necessary to make some brief and general remarks about this in order to relate nature and scale of solidarity activity in Britain to the likely developments over there.

The struggle now taking place in Ireland has gone beyond a purely civil rights struggle confined to the North. The increasingly repressive role of the British occupation forces, the clear fact that the Unionist junta only survives because of a Westminster Dictat, the permanent political crisis in the Free State with the Lynch wing of Fianna Fail openly collaborating with British Imperialism and the threat of the E.S.C.; all of these factors have shifted the focus of the struggle away from one solely for civil rights in the six counties.

In Britain;

It is this new situation which has stimulated the emergence of a localised, fragmented solidarity movement in Britain, and it is in differentiation from those who want to restrict their support to one sector of the struggle, that the Irish Solidarity Committees in a number of areas, and the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign in London, have developed. These forces now coming together in the Irish Solidarity Campaign, recognise the struggle as an anti-imperialist one.

The potential for the work of the new movement is enormous. The Campaign can, through mass action, mobilise the thousands and thousands of Irish workers here, and begin to break down the indifference of the British workers, it can make a big impact on the political situation, and give real aid to the Irish people.

National Action;

The first thought of the new Campaign must be for national action, the mobilising, up and down Britain of all those who can be won to support for the aims of the ISC. This can be done through national demonstrations and rallies, through nationally co-ordinated local activities, speaking tours etc. A main emphasis in all of this should be on the national character of the ISC, which is lacking in rival organisations, on a less developed political basis.

The Trade Unions;

It is vital to win support from Trade Unionists; they have the potential to hit Imperialism where it hurts most

The fact that Irish militants play an extremely important role in the Labour Movement gives us a good basis for gaining such support.

The Irish Community;

The initial base for the solidarity movement has, naturally enough, been the Irish community, and while they should not be seen as the sole focus of our activity, we cannot be content with the support we have got so far, and must try to extend it. Regular agitation in areas of high Irish concentration with meetings at which Irish leaders are given a platform are well tried methods. It is important also to gain publicity in the Irish press.

The Universities;

One area of potential support which has not received sufficient attention, is the Universities. Students showed themselves willing to support the Vietnamese, we should be capable of winning the same support for the Irish. We should try to get Socialist Societies to affiliate, and organise meetings for ISC, and for Irish speakers.

International Support;

The Irish struggle has made an international impact, we should seek to forge links with similar organisations in the U.S. and in Australia and New Zealand, and with the prospect of a fight against the E.E.C. with potential sympathisers in Europe.

Defence;

It is significant that it is around the defence of Irish political prisoners that the movement has found a major focus. With the fierce repression we have seen in recent months the need for an effective legal defence scheme, combined with energetic political defence. In this field we can combine with others who are subject to similar repression; Black militants, students and T.U. militants.